TARC NEWSLETTER

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARCH, 1996

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Marty Coin WD4JNM 264-9447
V.PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building
TARC Nets: VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910
Friendship - Thursdays at 1830 hrs on 146.910
Mosquito - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC Repeaters: VHF - 146.910 and 146.970. UHF - 444.150

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

The TARC was pleased to have Mr. Tom Harmer, Titusville Fire Chief as our speaker. We appreciate his taking time to come and share with us a portion of the programs ongoing within our city. Pike W4EPU, you done good. The program was super. We all enjoyed the tasty refreshments provided by Kay Jordan KE4MXF and Sherry "NOT YET".

The no-code class is moving along beautifully - thanks to Jose KC4VIO. On the same night (Monday, 7 PM) we are having a 5 WPM Morse code class. If you or anyone you know would like to join us, come on down. You haven't missed that much, and besides we will make it fun learning the code.

Our thanks to Ira K8HRR for delivering the Certificates from ARRL, Brevard County Public Safety Dept. and the letter from Congressman Dave Weldon. All expressed appreciation for the support rendered by our members during Hurricane Erin. I, too, want to thank all of you who contributed your time and talent.

John KB3GK, Bill KE4HIX and John K4JYX demonstrated a much smaller RF sniffer used to track down the fox. Speaking of the fox, after the club meeting adjourned, Terry WB4ZUZ trapped the fox and transplanted that rascal to a new den up on Old Dixie near the entrance of the nursing home. Well, wouldn't you know that when the pack that invited me to go along with them to find that varmint arrived at the fox's den, there was Wynn WB4ZUY. He had done found the fox, tamed that fellow and wanted to know where we had been. Betcha those boys from Daytona won't ask me to be on their fox hunting team until I get my act together. The next fox hunt will be in Daytona March 30 at 7 p.m. Make plans to go up and enjoy the fun.

Several of the TARC members get together every Thursday about 6:30 p.m. at Morrison's for the evening meal. If you would like to come down, please do.

We've been missing Charlie KR4YZ - just found out today he has been ailing. Charlie, you get well right now!

Dan K3KS, one of our long time members is in the Jess Parrish Hospital. Dan, our thoughts are with you and we wish you the very best.

We are saddened to report the death of fellow ham Bob Darrah W4CCQ on February 29.

We are also saddened to learn of the passing of Kathy Davis on February 27. To the parents, Darwin KS4BD and Betty McCombs and to the family, we offer our condolences.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MAR. 6	W4RH FRANK BUTLER, JR.
MAR. 6	KD4DOJ FAYE SKIDMORE
MAR. 8	WB4LOE LARRY SKIDMORE
MAR. 13	N4KFP TOM DOWNS
MAR. 14	N4PPO JOHN STEPHENS
MAR. 15	KA4LTK LLOYD MULLENS
MAR. 15	KD4SSK BILL MITCHELL
MAR. 17	KK4EY LEE ROLL
MAR. 19	AB6NT BILL MALLMAN
MAR. 19	W4UYZ JIM CREEVAY
MAR. 20	KD4EYR JUNE ROLL
MAR. 23	WB4PXO JIM MORGAN
MAR. 23	KA3CFG JOSEF GOEBEL
MAR. 23	AC4KU AL SANFORD
MAR. 24	KD4JMX STEPHANIE PHILLIPS
MAR. 26	KE4YQE HEIDI LORENZI
MAR. 27	AE4OG DAVID GREENWALD
MAR. 28	KE4AGK MAURICE GIONET
MAR. 30	KC4TE GENE MANN
MAR. 31	KD4ITX NANCY MARSDEN

ED. NOTE: Some months back on the Thursday night net, members reporting in were asked to name their home state. More members were originally from West Virginia than any other state. The reprint below is especially for all of you who hail from West Virginia. Our thanks to Jim, N4ZNQ for bringing this to us.

'95 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR

By L. T. Anderson
Daily Mail columnist

This is the authentic roundup of the most important West Virginia news stories of 1995. Accept no substitutes.

Of West Virginians responding to a poll, 73% said they believed in ghosts, 71% in psychic powers, and 68% in astrology.

State Supreme Court Justice Richard Neely said "If you can cut down on the number of nuts, you can cut down on the number of mental hygiene hearings."

Defending his lifestyle, T.D.Jakes, a wealthy Cross Lanes clergyman, said Jesus wasn't as poor as some people think he was.

In Charleston, a convenient City Hall parking space was taken from the handicapped and given to Assistant Mayor Ron Gregory.

A US Commerce Dept. Study found nearly one of five West Virginians living in poverty and put the state's median income in 50th place.

The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report showed W. V. teenagers leading the nation in teen-age tobacco addiction.

George Beckett, director of transportation for Kanawha County schools, bought a $450 coffee pot for his office.

Of a Charleston man charged with robbing 2 businesses and suspected of robbing 5 others within a span of 36 hours, police Lt. Pat Epperhart said, "It would be speculation on my part but I guess he wanted money."

Thomas G. Galloway was charged with burglary after Charleston police spotted him standing on a corner holding a stolen grandfather clock.

Putnam County Chief Deputy Sheriff Ronald Wilmoth said he saw nothing wrong in driving a sheriffs dept. car to a softball tournament in South Carolina.

Seeking to prevent demolition of a Clendenin bridge replaced by a new structure, businessmen David Knight and Michael Zernie said they saw the old bridge as a potential tourist attraction.

On a church cruise, Methodists aboard a riverboat said the Parkersburg fire chief mooned them. The chief said he didn't do it.

Neil Bucklew resigned from his $113,000 a year job as president of WV University and stepped down to a WVU teaching job for which he is paid $115.000 a year.

In a letter to former state Supreme Court Justice Richard Neely, Del. Ron Fraale, D-Harrison, said, "You have done a wonderful thing for the people of WV. You have resigned."

After her husband, Harold, fed $447 into a video poker machine, Dorothy Simms of Chesapeake attacked the machine with a cane.

When astronaut Jon McBride announced his candidacy for governor he said he hadn't decided which party he would join.

Sen. Sarah Minear, D-Tucker, added to a bill a provision that would require newspapers to print word-for-word the press releases and "columns" provided by legislators.

The town of Hedgesville (Pop. 250) put up a traffic light.

Charles Towne volunteer firemen, who had spend two years raising $270,000 to buy it, wrecked a new fire truck during a test run.

A guest reported that at a dinner for state lottery retailers, condoms were placed on dining tables, tattooed bosoms were displayed, and a burping contest was held.

The lottery's public relations manager, Nancy Bulla, said, "Putting cheese or olives up one's nose isn't my idea of professionalism," but said she saw no lewd behavior at the party.

The state Child Advocate Office left a St. Albania mother penniless when it seized her income tax refund in the belief that it was her ex-husband's, then diverted her ex-husband's child support check to the wrong woman.

A study showed West Virginia continued to lead the nation in snuff consumption.

In a book, the state's first lady discussed her orgasms.

Emily Stover found a frog in her low-fat frozen dinner.

SOLAR ACTIVITIES AND PROPAGATION PREDICTIONS

By Pike W4EPU

Solar activity now is extremely low. The actual count of the sun spot numbers (SSN) for days in a row (Jan. 25-28) was (11). That is so low it has a minimal if any at all, effect on the density of the ionosphere. Remember, the density of the ionosphere is enhanced by ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun and sunspots are abundant sources of UV. Therefore, SSN while factoring in the size of the spots, etc. is directly proportional to the density of the ionosphere. Also, the higher the density of the ionosphere, the higher the radio frequencies we can use in DX communications.

We still have another year to go before the predicted SSN minimum (Jan-Feb, 1997). But, good grief, how much lower than 11 can you get? Fortunately, for the DX buff, due to rare and occasional sporadic-E, solar flares, etc., there are occasional flurries of DX activities on the higher HF frequencies (20-15-10) and sometimes even 6 and 2 meters.

Hang in there, DXers. According to predictions, DX will be booming around the turn of the century.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS INDECENCY LAW

From Amateur Radio Newsline

The United States Supreme court has said that restricting the hours when legally indecent speech can be broadcast is constitutionally valid. This finding could pave the way for the FCC and other government agencies to prosecute hams who use this kind of language on the air.

In rebuffing free-speech advocates, the Supreme Court on January 8th, has told federal regulators that it is constitutionally valid for them to confine television and radio programs containing legally indecent language to late-night hours when children are less likely to tune in.

The justices also let stand a federal appeals court ruling that upheld government limits on indecent broadcasts to the hours between 7 PM and 6 AM.

The news media and civil liberties groups had challenged the rule as a violation of the right to free speech. The appeals court had ruled last summer that the rule was justified by the government's overriding and compelling interest in protecting the nations children. Since 1987, the FCC has deemed as indecent all explicit references to such things having a prurient meaning. Unlike obscenity, indecency is protected by the First Amendment's free speech guarantee.

The high court's action, taken without comment, quite literally opens the door to prosecuting almost anyone who transmits legally indecent language during hours when young children may be listening in. This could even include transmissions made by ham radio operators if the FCC so decides to invoke the rule.

The FCC has long held that a violation in any one service is no different than a violation in any other. For the FCC, this Supreme Court decision could be what it has been waiting for so that they can at least remove the most egregious offenders from the air. The only question is, will they act?

NEW UN PREFIX

From Amateur Radio Newsline

England's Radio communications Agency has announced that as of April, 1996, new amateur call signs will be issued using an "M" prefix instead of the "G" currently used starting with M0 for class A and M1 for class B licensees. The change will take place even if some of the "G" prefix calls remain unused. The same regional indicators as at present will be used, for example M for England, MW for Wales and so on.

Holders of existing "G" prefix call signs and Novice call signs will not be affected by this change.

DX

In DX, word that the mid-winter 6 meter DX openings are continuing and they are not limited to the northern hemisphere. Reports from Australia tell of extended 50 MHz propagation on January 13th with stations from all Australian States plus the Australian Capital Territory have been heard and worked in New Zealand. Australians also report hearing Japanese stations but as of yet, nothing from the United states.

HEARD ON THE AIRWAYS

By Jo KE4AEB

Sunday morning net - - - they usually check everyone's temperatures and compare them. Bud always asks what they are and then plots a curve in his computer. Only one that doesn't submit a temperature is Bud. Seems Bud doesn't have a thermometer. Think he got one recently. On one occasion Charlie was reading 10 deg. lower than the average of all the other local stations. It was finally decided that Charlie had his RIT tuned on in his thermometer.

Les K4SJC, always the net controller, tries to get everyone in some sort of order for taking turns. It never works, though. They always turn it back to him. Of course you all know Les. He says he used to work for Shakespeare! Well he did. He trimmed his quills, swept the floor, looked up words in the thesaurus and general gopher type duties for the bard. Speaking about general duties, I think he also worked for General Motors. Of course, General Motors was only a corporal at the time. Someone said they thought Les was the communications officer for Noah on the ark.

Anyway, happy 80th Les. Hang in there and you might catch George Burns yet!

BUD'S SURPRISE PARTY

Numerous people - mostly hams - just turned up at Expedient Services to surprise Bud. There were lots of high calorie snacks. Jo KE4AEB and Cliff KC4SYD set the humming pitch, and all sang Happy Birthday.

When Bud was called upon to speak, I think I could see a tear in his eye. All he seemed able to say was "I didn't know there were so many people who didn't have anything to do."

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At the Orlando hamfest, we had a visit from Warren, N8EOX from Three River, Mich. He is one of the regulars on the Sunday morning net. He got to meet most of the local hams he has worked and it was our pleasure to get an eyeball QSO with him. It's funny - when you work someone so long and finally get to see them, most of the time they don't look anything like you might expect. I think he thought the same about us.

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 24	**Hurricane ZELTA (Response)**
MAY 7 - 8	**(Recovery)**
MAY 4	**Emergency Management Conference Brevard Agriculture Center - Cocoa**
NEEDED:	**More operator volunteers for the Valiant Air Command program at TICO Airport.**
MARCH 15	**8:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.**
MARCH 16	**8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**
MARCH 17	**8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

HOLD HARMLESS WAIVERS must be signed prior to the event. Tickets will be issued upon receipt of a signed waiver being received by Ralph Hall AE4LE (267-9418 - 27 Fairglen Dr., Titusville)

CW TRAINING NET

QFNS reported by Gary, KE4DNO
From: 2/96 Florida Skip

New to CW and interested in increasing your proficiency while learning traffic handling skills? QFNS, the All Florida Slow CW Traffic Net is the place for you. We meet daily at 8 PM EST on 3.715 kHw.

Last month's column mentioned a new training course designed to accomplish both of the objectives mentioned above. And the nicest thing about it is that you move through the course at your own pace. No pressure, no stress - just a series of 40-odd training messages sent when requested (limited to one message per night).

To avail yourself of this opportunity, check into QFNS and ask for the training message desired. For example, suppose you have no traffic but wish to receive training message 3. When the NCS sends "QFNS QNI K" respond with "de [your call sign] QRU tng msg 3 pse."

If the NCS decided to have the message sent to you on the net frequency, you'll probably be asked to wait ("pse AS") until all or most of the other stations are released from the net. If the NCS decides to have you get the message earlier, you'll receive instructions to move off the net frequency with another station (e.g. if the NCS wants you to go from 3.715 to 3.710 kHz you'll be told "dwn 5"). In that case, remember that the receiving station always goes to the designated frequency and calls the sending station.

If you find 3710 is busy, go down until you find a clear frequency and then call the sending station. In the same fashion, should you be sent "up 5" and find 3.720 in use, move up until you find a clear frequency within the limits of your frequency privileges, then go back to the net frequency and send your call sign suffix plus "NG" (no good, need assistance) to indicate you were not able to make contact. Then wait for additional instructions.

This month I'd like to give special recognition to those net members who, in addition to acting as NCS, also support QFNS as reps to and from QFN: OB (WC4D), Miss Phil (KA4FZI), Rip (AA4HT), Laura (WA9VND), and Bob (KC4ZHF). Many thanks to all of you for your work. Chas (KD4OGV) was with us a number of times during December and it's certainly good to have him back, even on a limited basis. Ford (KB4WBY) was with us twice and we hope to also hear him much more frequently. We also were visited by Ed (K41A) of Punta Gorda. Bob (KC4ZHF) again led our group in December with 29 out of a possible 31 checkins. OB(WC4D) was next with 26 checkins.

Please remember that a warm welcome always awaits you on QFNS and we look forward to having you join us often. May 1996 be a year that overflows with good health, prosperity and happiness for you and your entire family. 73 and God bless. Gary, KE4DNO, QFNS Net Manager, 904-228-3488 (Lake Helen FL)

Ed. Note: QFNS Manager Gary, KE4DNO has introduced an innovative approach to our efforts to train and produce competent CW traffic handlers. Be sure to read his plan above, then take a listen to QFNS. If all goes as planned, they may need more experienced operators to send training messages. 73, Ed.

GEMS FROM JOAN

From Joan KE4SXU

Even is you lose a couple, so what? Babe Ruth struck out 1330 times. People remember his 714 home runs.

TREASURERS REPORT

By K4EOS Clyde Lee

BALANCE FORWARD FROM 1995	2,780.03
DEPOSITS Year to date	4,395.92
TOTAL INCOME	$7,175.95
EXPENDITURES	1,425.52
BALANCE AS AT 02/29/96	$5,750.43

ATTABOYS for Les K4SJC, Jo KE4AEB and all other TARC members who helped man our 2 tables at the Orlando Hamfest. We got some good PR, and received $265 in donations to the club fund.

FEBRUARY MEETING

By Marty WD4JNM

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hours by Bud K4CWG. After the Pledge and a moment of silence, guest speaker Mr. Tom Harmer, Chief of Titusville Fire and Rescue, and also coordinator of Emergency Management spoke about the different programs ongoing within the city, and of the help the club gives to the city in time of need.

New members were voted into the club.

John KB4GK, along with the help of Bud K4CWG, demonstrated a new fox hunting sniffer.

K8HRR passed out certificates of appreciation to the members for their work during Hurricane Erin.

Clyde K4EOS gave "attaboys" to Les K4SJC and Jo KE4AEB for work done at the Orlando Hamfest.

Pike W4EPU spoke of Florida Skip and the Run for Life to be held March 7.

Alan KC4UUX spoke of the status of the new Florida Marine Patrol tower to be erected.

Les K4SJC spoke of combining 4 radios to the antenna that is to be installed on the above tower.

Marty WD4JNM spoke of holding a meeting on a Saturday so that the night shift boys can attend a meeting a couple of times a year.

Bud K4CWG asked for and received a budget of $200 for field day expenses.

Meeting adjourned at 2055 hours.

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CARTOON BY DAVE AC4JX

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike W4EPU

QTC (I have a message for you.) I have nothing but praise and admiration for the authors and publishers of the manual *Now You're Talking*. It is an excellent training manual which has provided knowledge for enabling the large number of our new member Hams to obtain their licenses over the past several years.

There is, however, one area in *Now You're Talking* regarding which I have some reservations. It has to do with brevity (Q-signals, abbreviations, etc.) when using voice. The particular area is entitled "Keep it Plain and Simple." It can be found on page 9-7. It states, in essence, that in voice communications brevity is not necessary. It says, "on voice, you have plenty of time to say what you mean.: That could mean "take all day". Some operators have a tendency to do just that. It says "Q-signals (QRX, QRV, and so forth) are for CW, not voice operations." It continues "QSL. QSO and QRZ have become adapted on voice." Even though that is strictly arbitrary in my opinion, it accounts for only five Q-signals.

What about the many more Q-signals, 26 of which are listed on page 9-2? And then there are those Q-signals not found in any listing. Admittedly, some Q-signals just don't fit when using voice. For example, QLF (try sending with your left foot, I could probably copy you better) is obviously unique for CW only. Whereas, on voice or CW one may use QQQ (Wipe the bird droppings off your antenna, apparently some of it is being radiated.)

Those of us who grew up, so to speak, on a mixture of voice and Morse code in both commercial and amateur communications have always used Q-signals, abbreviations and other forms of brevity interchangeable between CW and voice. Some operators in DX (foreign) countries know very little English, but they know Q-signals. Sometimes Q-signals are the only English they understand.

In conclusion, brevity in communications means "keep it short". It is **NOT** OK on voice to take all the time you like. Well, don't take all day, anyway. Q-signals are forms of brevity and may be used when appropriate to shorten transmission time whether on voice or CW.

A LITTLE MIXED UP

Author unknown

Just a line to say I'm living,
That I'm not among the dead,
Though I'm getting more forgetful
And mixed up in the head.

I've got used to my arthritis,
To my dentures I'm resigned;
I can manage my bifocals...
But, God, I miss my mind!

For sometimes I can't remember
When I stand at the foot of the stair
If I must go up for something, or
Have I just come down from there?

And before the fridge, so often
My poor mind is filled with doubt;
Have I just put food away, or
Have I come to take some out?

And there are times when it is dark,
With my nightcap on my head,
I don't know if I'm retiring,
Or just getting out of bed.

So if it's my turn to write you
There's no need for getting sore;
I may think that I have written
And don't want to be a bore.

So remember that I love you
And wish that you were near,
But now it's nearly mail time
So I must say 'good-bye', dear.

* * * * * * * * *

Here I stand beside the mailbox
With a face so very red.
Instead of mailing you my letter,
I have opened it instead!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 273. (208 regular, 60 family, 5 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS: KE4GNZ SANARA LEWIS
WN4IIV R.D.STRAUGHN
KE4YQC HARRY MITCHELL

RENEWALS: W4AVP JACK SIEGEL
K4BZJ LES WIDICK
AE4CB DAVID HURST
WB4CCB DON JOERGER
KA3CFG JOE GOEBEL
KC4HMP BARBARA GOEBEL
KE3GK JOHN MUNSEY
KC4HIO RICHARD SWEATT
KC4HIQ SHIRLEY SWEATT
KR4HS GEORGE SMITH
W4EPU PIKE ABELL
KE4YQL CLARA ABELL
KC4UFI JERRY RUSSELL
KA4MIW SHARON RUSSELL
WB4ZUZ WYNN ROSTEK
WB4ZUY THERESA VALEK
N1PAW JOE BONARDI
N1OGE BERTHA BONARDI
N4UTR BOB MARTIN
KC4HUG FAYE MARTIN
KE4VWB HELEN BURKS

HAMFEST CALENDAR

3/2	Zephyrhills
3/9	Lake Worth
3/16	Englewood
3/16,17	Ft.Walton Beach
3/23	Stuart
3/23	Sebring
3/30	Fanning Springs
4/6	Sunrise
4/27,28	Gainesville
8/3,4	Jacksonville
9/7-8	Melbourne
9/22	New Port Richey
10/19	Starke
10/19-20	West Palm Beach
11/9	Titusville
11/23-24	Tampa

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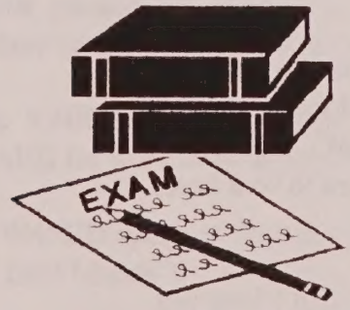

GOOD LUCK TO THE STUDENTS
IN THE NO-CODE CLASS
WHO ARE GETTING READY
FOR THEIR EXAMS